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PLAT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRODUCTION SYSTEM OF EASTERN SIBERIA AND THE FAR EAST IN THE FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

A. Preobrazhenskiy

The eastern half of the Soviet Union is a territory of vast natural resources, still not completely explored and only partially under exploitation. In the past, the dovelopment of the economy was retarded here by the small population, the absence of favorable means of transportation, the inadequate investigation of natural resources, and the severe natural conditions. Only the most valuable items, able to withstand long transportation (gold and fur), were experted from castern Siberia. Local industry did not develop and industrial goods were acquired from European Russia.

Under the conditions of planned economy the resources of eastern Siberia and the Far East increased several times (as a result of the investigations of Soviet geologists), and they acquired new significance.

Enterprises which capitalism considered unprofitable proved necessary and profitable in the USSR, where national economy is planned on a nation-wide scale. A striking example of this is the development of the fishing industry in the Far East. Its share in the total fish catch for the entire country amounted in 1913 to 10 percent, whereas in 1937 it had groun to 25 percent. Nature's severity ceased to be an unconquerable barrier to the development of the economic structure. The construction of the large tin combine near the Verkhoyansk cold pole, for example, bears sitness to this. The lack of population is being climinated by planned resettlement and the extensive mechanization of all labor-consuming production processes. The lack of roads is being overcome by the construction of railroads and auto-mobile roads.

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For the development of industry and agriculture, eastern Siberia and the Far East are lacking in many kinds of equipment, and in materials and fuel. In the past, the area has lived almost exclusively on importation (including imports from abroad), but now, practically all basic requirements are satisfied by local production. Only that which cannot be produced locally is imported.

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The eastern part of the USSR is developing as a vas, production complex indissolubly connected with the economic structure of the Soviet Union. Eastern gold production, nonferrous metallurgy, fur trade, and fishing have an all-Union significance.

Machine building has developed strongly during the years of Soviet rule. First and foremost is the production of mining equipment for nonferrous metallurgy and for gold production, followed by transportation machine building (steem locomotives and cars for railroads), automobile assembly, see and river shipbuilding, and finally, the production of equipment for the lumber and paper industry, and the production of agricultural machines and combines for farming.

Nonferrous metals are being extracted in sufficient quantity in East Siberia, but until recently there was no ferrous metallurgy here. The Amur steel foundry only lately went into operation smelting scrap iron. However, the extraction of pig iron from ore is not yet organized. The gap is being filled under the new Five-Year Plan: coke-chemical and blast-furnace production are being established at local iron-ore mines.

Vast reserves of coal -- over 900 billion tons, or twice as much as there is in the Kusnetek Basin -- are found in the eastern regions of the USSR. However, the rates of coal output are, for the time being, still insignificant. In 1938, only about 12 million tons were produced (9 percent of the all-Micon output). The new Five-Year Flan cells for an expansion of coal production here, in particular of coking coal. In eastern 52 beris an extensive industry is also being established in connection with the production of liquid fuel from coal, which will make up for the absence of petroleum resources here. The coal and liquid fuel, which is being produced from the Sakhelin oil fields, are directed to various consumers, but mainly to industry and transport. Electric power plants also operate on coal.

The same of the Fer East abound in fish. The extensive development of the file industry demands great quantities of salt. But the natural deposits of salt here are not large, and the shortage of salt is being made up in part by importing it from other areas, and partially, by extraction from sea mater.

The forests are rich in valuable fur-bearing animals. Commercial hunting is continuing to develop. In the more habitable forest areas, enterprises of the wood-processing and paper industry have been established. Local wood requirements are being completely satisfied.

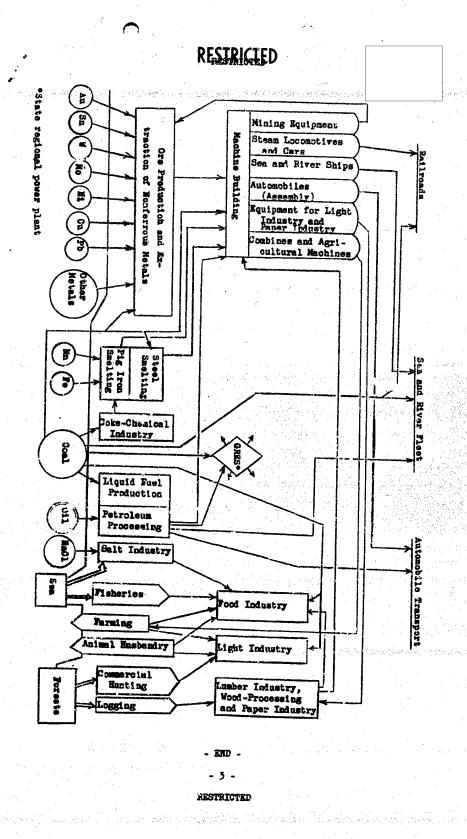
agriculture under the Fourth Five-Year Flan is being reinforced in order to eatisfy both food requirements and the demands of expanding light industry.

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